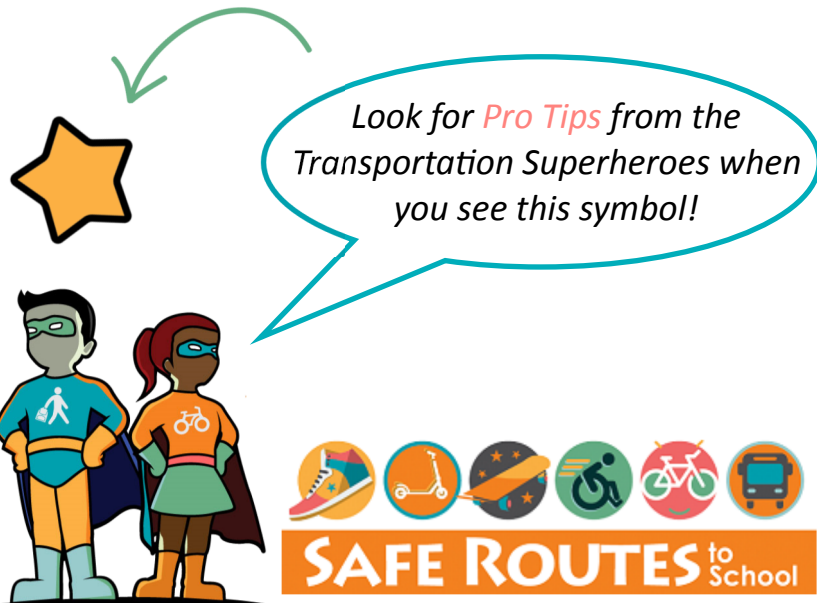


# Getting There

How to plan your active transportation trip



**SAFE ROUTES** to School

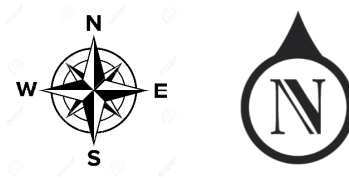
# Understanding your map

In order to use your map, there are a few key parts to understand.

(To get a free Portland neighborhood map, visit [PortlandOregon.gov/transportation/AT!](http://PortlandOregon.gov/transportation/AT!))



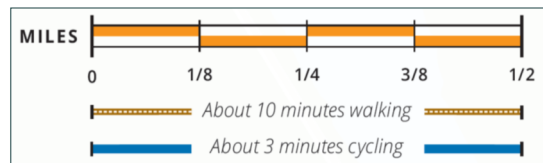
- **North arrow or compass:** This symbol points in the direction of north on the map. When north is at the top of the map, west is on the left, south is at the bottom, and east is on the right.



- **Legend:** The legend explains what all the symbols mean on the map, including which streets are good for walking & biking, where to find a post office, and more.



- **Scale:** The scale shows you how much space on the map corresponds to distance on the ground.



Portland neighborhood maps also provide an estimate for how long it might take to walk or bike a given distance.

## Understanding your city

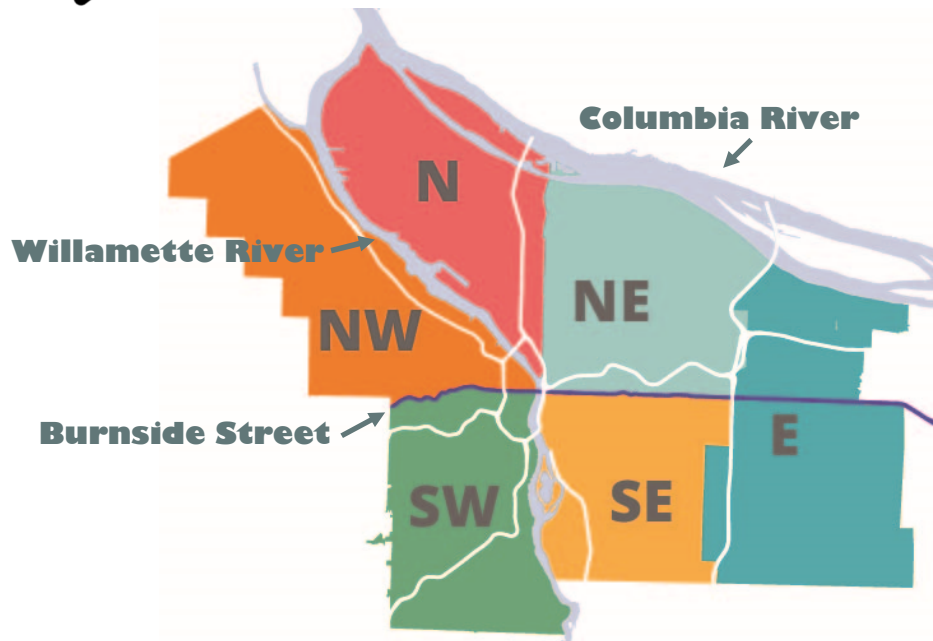
Portland is divided into eastern and western sections by the **Willamette River**. The **Columbia River**, flowing east to west, forms the boundary with our neighbors to the north in Washington state. **Burnside Street** divides Portland into northern and southern sections on both sides of the Willamette River.

The city is further divided into sectors based on geographic location:

- **Northwest** (NW)—west of the Willamette, north of Burnside
- **Southwest** (SW)—west of the Willamette, south of Burnside
- **North** (N)—east of the Willamette, mostly west of I-5
- **Northeast** (NE)—east of the Willamette, north of Burnside
- **Southeast** (SE)—east of the Willamette, south of Burnside
- **East** (E)—east of the Willamette, mostly east of I-205



Street names in Portland include their geographic sector, referring to which side of the Willamette River and which side of Burnside Street they are located.



## Orienting yourself

In addition to basic roads and geographic information (like rivers), different maps offer different features to help you get where you're going. Try some of these options for getting around:



- **Portland neighborhood maps** show suggested streets and urban trails for walking and biking where fewer cars are likely to travel; also includes schools, parks, and other points of interest: [portlandoregon.gov/transportation/at](http://portlandoregon.gov/transportation/at)
- **Google maps** includes business locations and suggested trip routes for walking, biking, busing, and more: [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)
- Find your transit trip on a detailed map at the **TriMet Regional Trip Planner**, which includes an option to search for bus & bike directions: [rtp.trimet.org](http://rtp.trimet.org)



Even if you don't have a map with you, there are other ways to orient yourself and find your way.

- Use businesses as landmarks, such as a library, gas station, grocery store, or coffee shop
- Use environmental landmarks, such as rivers, highways, parks, or the sun (hint: it rises in the east and sets in the west!)
- In the eastside neighborhoods (NE & SE), numbered streets typically run north/south while the named streets typically head east/west
- Southwest Portland is dotted with a network of urban trails throughout the wooded landscape. Signs like this help guide way:



## Planning ahead

Mode matters! There are different factors to consider depending on how you travel. Here are a few tips & tricks for going by foot or on wheels.



### WHEN WALKING:

- Choose sidewalks or paths whenever possible, even if that means the trip will take a little longer.
- If no sidewalks or paths are available, walk on the side of the street facing traffic.

### WHEN BIKING OR ROLLING:

- Try to choose streets marked in **green** on the map. They have fewer cars and lower speed limits.
- Hills can be tough for kids and adults. Don't worry—if a hill is unavoidable, you can hop off your bike and walk for a bit!
- If you decide to ride on the sidewalk, watch out for cars in driveways and corners without ramps. Always yield to pedestrians on sidewalks.



### WHENEVER:

- Adults: ride or walk the route to make sure it's safe for younger kids; youth: try out the route with an adult before going it alone.
- Try to cross at locations with traffic signals or crossing guards. Cross as few major streets as possible.
- Take detours for fun stuff! Look for these symbols on the map:



- Neighborhood Greenways with bike “sharrow” markings are great low-traffic places to walk, bike, and roll.










- Awareness is key for safety—always look both ways when crossing and limit use of headphones and cell phones.



Always be predictable, and model good behavior for younger children!

## Students: Take the Map Challenge!

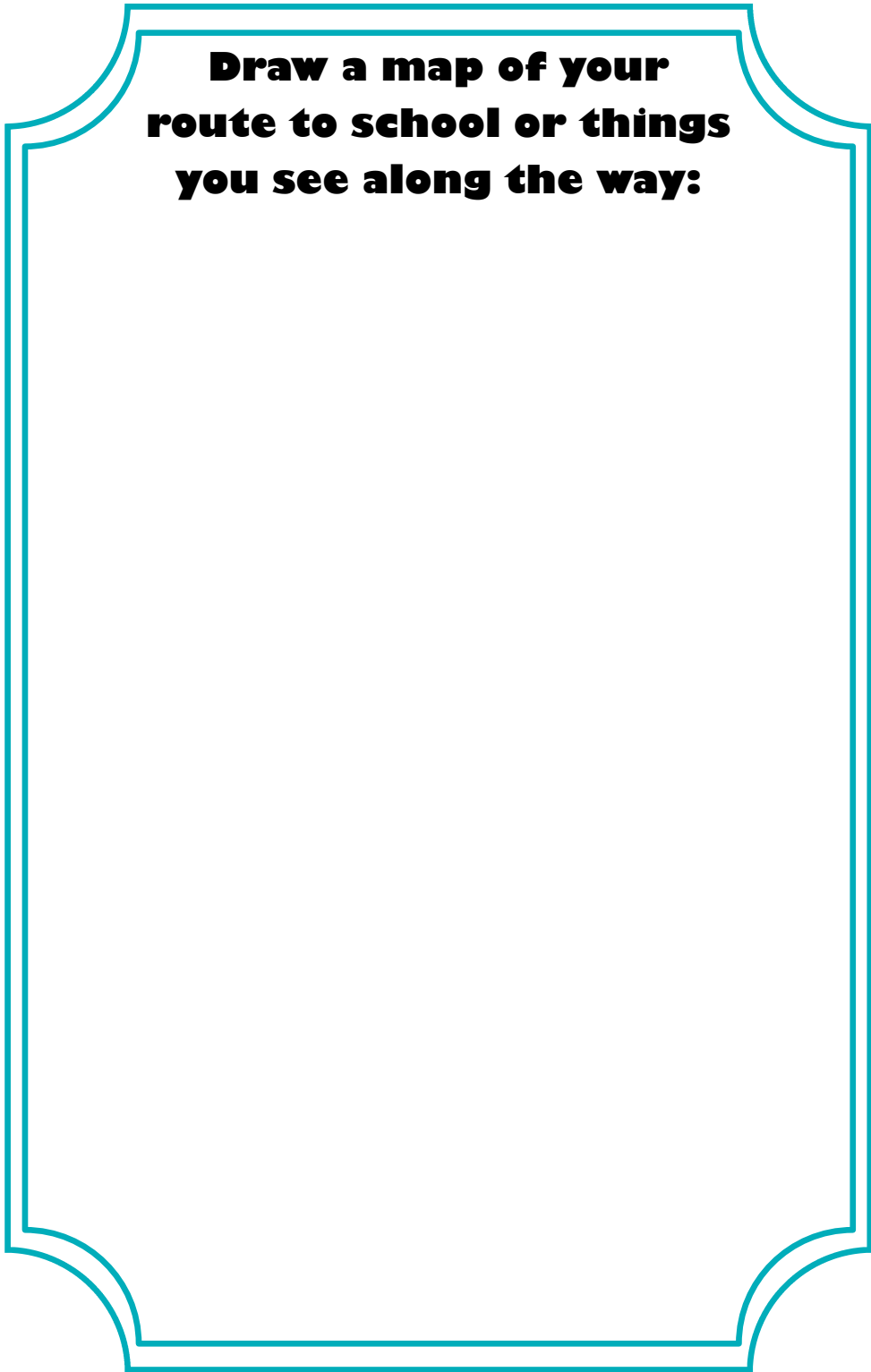
*Complete these steps to learn about using your map.*

- 1 **Find the map legend.** It tells you what symbols mean on the map. The legend can also be called a **key** because it unlocks the secrets of your map! 
- 2 **Where is your school?** Look for this symbol on the map 
- 3 **Where do you live?** Locate your home on the map. Start by finding any big streets nearby and then your street.
- 4 **How do you get to school?** Start at home (or a spot closer to school) and follow which streets or paths you would take to get to school. This is called your **route**. 
- 5 **What's on the way to school?** Find three landmarks on the map that you see between your home and school. One could be a grocery store, a library, or a friend's house. 
- 6 **Use your map's legend to answer these questions:**
  - ☐ What do streets marked with **green** mean?
  - ☐ How many **traffic lights** are on your route to school? 
  - ☐ Do you see any  on your route to school? What does this symbol mean?
  - ☐ Where is the park closest to your home? 



Share what you've learned with your friends or classroom to help other students find their way!

**Draw a map of your  
route to school or things  
you see along the way:**



# Active Transportation BINGO!

Can you spot any of these things as you walk, bike, and ride the bus around your neighborhood? Use your Bike + Walk Map to find items close to you. Try for a Bingo win (straight line, diagonal, four corners), or just see how many you can get in a single trip!



If you don't know what a symbol means, check out your neighborhood map legend!



		<b>FREE SPACE!</b>		



**PBOT**  
PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION



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